

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC 7 H01M8/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 656 386 A (SCHERER ET AL) 12 August 1997 (1997-08-12) column 4, line 27 - column 5, line 5 column 8, lines 15-18 column 10, lines 1-3 -----	1, 2, 4
X	US 2003/113604 A1 (BAHAR BAMDAD ET AL) 19 June 2003 (2003-06-19) paragraph '0035! -----	1
X	US 4 605 685 A (MOMOSE ET AL) 12 August 1986 (1986-08-12) column 5, line 8 column 5, line 35 - column 6, line 12 column 7, lines 38-45 -----	1, 5, 7, 8, 11-13
A	----- -/--	3, 6, 9, 10



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

**\* Special categories of cited documents:****\*A'** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance**\*E'** earlier document but published on or after the International filing date**\*L'** document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)**\*O'** document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means**\*P'** document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed**\*T'** later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention**\*X'** document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone**\*Y'** document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.**\*&'** document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 February 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/02/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

GONZALEZ-CUENCA, M

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 444 343 B1 (PRAKASH G. K. SURYA ET AL) 3 September 2002 (2002-09-03) column 7, lines 27-31 column 8, lines 48-60 column 9, line 1 -----	1,7,11

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/010252

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5656386	A	12-08-1997	CH 691209 A5	15-05-2001
			AT 176964 T	15-03-1999
			CA 2148592 A1	16-03-1995
			WO 9507553 A2	16-03-1995
			DE 59407845 D1	01-04-1999
			EP 0667983 A1	23-08-1995
			FI 952180 A	05-05-1995
			HK 1012128 A1	24-03-2000
			JP 3417946 B2	16-06-2003
			JP 8503574 T	16-04-1996
			SG 45249 A1	16-01-1998
US 2003113604	A1	19-06-2003	US 2002022123 A1	21-02-2002
			US 6254978 B1	03-07-2001
			US 2004067402 A1	08-04-2004
			US 2002011684 A1	31-01-2002
			US RE37307 E1	07-08-2001
			US RE37701 E1	14-05-2002
US 4605685	A	12-08-1986	JP 60195131 A	03-10-1985
			JP 60055033 A	29-03-1985
			JP 60110711 A	17-06-1985
			JP 60127332 A	08-07-1985
			EP 0140544 A2	08-05-1985
			NO 843527 A	07-03-1985
US 6444343	B1	03-09-2002	AU 729900 B2	15-02-2001
			AU 7303998 A	10-06-1998
			CA 2272866 A1	28-05-1998
			EP 0948827 A1	13-10-1999
			JP 2001504636 T	03-04-2001
			WO 9822989 A1	28-05-1998